

## **Amendments to the Claims:**

*This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:*

Claims 1 - 10. (Cancelled)

11. (Currently Amended) A process for ~~[[the]]~~ jointing ~~[[of]]~~ with sand, comprising forming a jointing composition by adding a binder to dry sand, the binder consisting essentially of a powder composition ~~comprising of~~ one or more redispersible polymer powders, at least one redispersible polymer powder being a functionalized, redispersible polymer powder~~[[s]]~~ selected from the group consisting of

- a) polyvinyl alcohol-stabilized copolymers comprising the polymerized product of at least one monomer selected from the group consisting of vinyl esters of straight-chain or branched alkylcarboxylic acids having 1 to 18 carbon atoms; (meth)acrylates of branched or straight-chain alcohols or diols having 1 to 18 carbon atoms; dienes; olefins; vinylaromatics; and vinyl halides, further containing from 0.1 to 20% by weight, based on the total weight of the copolymer, of one or more postcrosslinking comonomers selected from the group consisting of acrylamidoglycolic acid; methyl methacrylamidoglycolate; N-methylolacrylamide; -methylolmethacrylamide; allyl N-methylolcarbamate; alkyl ethers and esters of N-methylolacrylamide, of N-methylolmethacrylamide, and of allyl N-methylolcarbamate; (meth)acryloyloxypropyltri(alkoxy)silanes; vinyltrialkoxysilanes; and vinylmethyldialkoxysilanes, and
- b) polymers comprising the polymerized product of at least one monomer selected from the group consisting of vinyl esters of straight-chain or branched alkylcarboxylic acids having 1 to 18 carbon atoms;

(meth)acrylates of branched or straight-chain alcohols or diols having 1 to 18 carbon atoms; dienes; olefins; vinylaromatics; and vinyl halides, said polymers stabilized with polymers comprising ethylenically unsaturated mono- or dicarboxylic acids or anhydrides thereof, having an acid content of from 50 to 99 mol% [.] .

c) optionally, when copolymer a) is employed, a bifunctional masked aldehyde, and

d) optionally, a pulverulent acidic or basic additive, and

sweeping the jointing composition in dry or moist form into joints.

12. (Currently Amended) The process of claim 11, wherein copolymers a) are employed, wherein copolymers a) contain one or more monomer units selected from the group consisting of vinyl acetate, vinyl esters of  $\alpha$ -branched monocarboxylic acids having 9 to 13 carbon atoms, vinyl chloride, ethylene, methyl acrylate, methyl methacrylate, ethyl acrylate, ethyl methacrylate, propyl acrylate, propyl methacrylate, n-butyl acrylate, n-butyl methacrylate, 2-ethylhexyl acrylate and styrene, and contain from 1 to 10% by weight of one or more monomer units selected from the group consisting of N-methylolacrylamide, -methylolmethacrylamide, (meth)acryloyloxypropyltriethoxysilane, vinyltriethoxysilane and vinylmethyldiethoxysilane.

13. (Currently Amended) The process of claim [[11]] 12, wherein at least one ~~polymer~~ copolymer (a) is selected from the group consisting of polymers of vinyl acetate with ethylene; vinyl acetate with ethylene and a vinyl ester of at least one  $\alpha$ -branched monocarboxylic acid having 9 to 13 carbon atoms; n-butylacrylate and methyl methacrylate; n-butyl acrylate with 2-ethylhexyl acrylate and methyl methacrylate; styrene with at least one monomer selected from the group consisting of methyl acrylate, ethyl acrylate, propyl acrylate, n-butyl acrylate and 2-ethylhexyl acrylate; vinyl acetate with at least one monomer selected

from the group consisting of methyl acrylate, ethyl acrylate, propyl acrylate, n-butyl acrylate, 2-ethylhexyl acrylate, and optionally with ethylene; and with from 1 to 10% by weight of N-methylolacrylamide or N-methylolmethacrylamide.

14. (Previously Presented) The process of claim 11, wherein partly hydrolyzed polyvinyl alcohols or partly hydrolyzed, hydrophobically modified polyvinyl alcohols having a degree of hydrolysis of from 80 to 95 mol% and a Höppler viscosity, in 4% strength aqueous solution, of from 1 to 30 mPa.s are employed as a polyvinyl alcohol.

15. (Currently Amended) The process of claim 11, wherein copolymers b) are employed, wherein copolymers b) are derived from at least one monomer selected from the group consisting of vinyl acetate, vinyl ester(s) of  $\alpha$ -branched monocarboxylic acids having 9 to 13 carbon atoms, vinyl chloride, ethylene, methyl acrylate, methyl methacrylate, ethyl acrylate, ethyl methacrylate, propyl acrylate, propyl methacrylate, n-butyl acrylate, n-butyl methacrylate, 2-ethylhexyl acrylate and styrene, and which are stabilized with from 1 to 40% by weight of a protective colloid selected from the group consisting of homo- and copolymers polymerized from at least one monomer selected from the group consisting of acrylic acid, methacrylic acid, fumaric acid, maleic acid and maleic anhydride.

16. (Previously Presented) The process of claim 11, wherein polyacrylic acid, polymethacrylic acid, or mixtures thereof are employed as the protective colloid of polymer(s) b).

17. (Previously Presented) The process of claim 15, wherein polyacrylic acid, polymethacrylic acid, or mixtures thereof are employed as the protective colloid of polymer(s) b).

18. (Currently Amended) The process of claim 11, wherein copolymers comprising acrylic acid, methacrylic acid, [[and]] maleic acid, and/or maleic anhydride ~~(anhydride)~~ units and optimally units of monomers copolymerizable therewith are employed

as protective colloids for polymer(s) b), the proportion of acid groups being from 80 to 99 mol%.

19. (Currently Amended) The process of claim 15, wherein copolymers comprising acrylic acid, methacrylic acid, [[and]] maleic acid, and/or maleic anhydride (~~anhydride~~) units and optimally units of monomers copolymerizable therewith are employed as protective colloids for polymer(s) b), the proportion of acid groups being from 80 to 99 mol%.

20. (Currently Amended) The process of claim ~~[[11]]~~ 12, wherein the powder composition ~~comprising~~ containing copolymer(s) a) further comprise at least one bifunctional, masked aldehyde having at least 3 carbon atoms from which aldehyde groups are liberated in an acidic medium, as a crosslinking agent.

21. (Currently Amended) The process of claim 11, wherein ~~[[the]]~~ a powder composition ~~comprising~~ containing copolymer(s) a) is employed and contains ~~further comprises~~ at least one pulverulent, acidic additive.

22. (Currently Amended) The process of claim 11, wherein the powder composition comprising copolymer(s) b) is employed and contains ~~further comprises~~ at least one pulverulent, basic additive.

23. (Currently Amended) A jointing composition suitable for use in the process of claim 11, ~~comprising~~ consisting essentially of:

- a) polyvinyl alcohol-stabilized copolymers comprising the polymerized product of at least one monomer selected from the group consisting of vinyl esters of straight-chain or branched alkylcarboxylic acids having 1 to 18 carbon atoms; (meth)acrylates of branched or straight-chain alcohols or diols having 1 to 18 carbon atoms; dienes; olefins; vinylaromatics; and vinyl halides,

further containing from 0.1 to 20% by weight, based on the total weight of the copolymer, of one or more postcrosslinking comonomers selected from the group consisting of acrylamidoglycolic acid; methyl methacrylamidoglycolate; N-methylolacrylamide; -methylolmethacrylamide; allyl N-methylolcarbamate; alkyl ethers and esters of N-methylolacrylamide, of N-methylolmethacrylamide, and of allyl N-methylolcarbamate; (meth)acryloyloxypropyltri(alkoxy)silanes; vinyltrialkoxysilanes; and vinylmethyldialkoxysilanes; or

- b) polymers comprising the polymerized product of at least one monomer selected from the group consisting of vinyl esters of straight-chain or branched alkylcarboxylic acids having 1 to 18 carbon atoms; (meth)acrylates of branched or straight-chain alcohols or diols having 1 to 18 carbon atoms; dienes; olefins; vinylaromatics; and vinyl halides, said polymers stabilized with polymers comprising ethylenically unsaturated mono- or dicarboxylic acids or anhydrides thereof, having an acid content of from 50 to 99 mol%, are used as a mixture with sand, [[and]]
- c) sand~~[[.]]~~,
- d) optionally, a bifunctional masked aldehyde when copolymer a) is employed, and
- e) optionally, a pulverulent acidic or basic additive.

24. (Currently Amended) The composition of claim 23, wherein copolymers a) are employed, and contain one or more monomer units selected from the group consisting of vinyl acetate, vinyl esters of  $\alpha$ -branched monocarboxylic acids having 9 to 13 carbon atoms, vinyl chloride, ethylene, methyl acrylate, methyl methacrylate, ethyl acrylate, ethyl methacrylate, propyl acrylate, propyl methacrylate, n-butyl acrylate, n-butyl methacrylate, 2-ethylhexyl acrylate and styrene, and contain from 1 to 10% by weight of one or more monomer units selected from the group consisting of N-methylolacrylamide, N-methylolmethacrylamide, (meth)acryloyloxypropyltriethoxysilane, vinyltriethoxysilane and vinylmethyldiethoxysilane.

25. (Currently Amended) The composition of claim [[23]] 24, wherein at least one polymer (a) is selected from the group consisting of polymers of vinyl acetate with ethylene; vinyl acetate with ethylene and a vinyl ester of at least one  $\alpha$ -branched monocarboxylic acid having 9 to 13 carbon atoms; n-butylacrylate and methyl methacrylate; n-butyl acrylate with 2-ethylhexyl acrylate and methyl methacrylate; styrene with at least one monomer selected from the group consisting of methyl acrylate, ethyl acrylate, propyl acrylate, n-butyl acrylate and 2-ethylhexyl acrylate; vinyl acetate with at least one monomer selected from the group consisting of methyl acrylate, ethyl acrylate, propyl acrylate, n-butyl acrylate, 2-ethylhexyl acrylate, and optionally with ethylene; and with from 1 to 10% by weight of N-methylolacrylamide or N-methylolmethacrylamide.

26. (Previously Presented) The composition of claim 23 wherein at least one polymer (a) is employed, the powder composition further comprising at least one bifunctional masked aldehyde having at least 3 carbon atoms and at least one pulverulent acidic additive.

27. (Currently Amended) The composition of claim 23 wherein copolymers b) are employed, and are derived from at least one monomer unit selected from the group consisting of vinyl acetate, vinyl ester(s) of  $\alpha$ -branched monocarboxylic acids having 9 to 13 carbon atoms, vinyl chloride, ethylene, methyl acrylate, methyl methacrylate, ethyl acrylate, ethyl methacrylate, propyl acrylate, propyl methacrylate, n-butyl acrylate, n-butyl methacrylate, 2-ethylhexyl acrylate and styrene, and which are stabilized with from 1 to 40% by weight of a protective colloid selected from the group consisting of homo- and copolymers polymerized from at least one monomer selected from the group consisting of acrylic acid, methacrylic acid, fumaric acid, maleic acid and maleic anhydride.

28. (Previously Presented) The composition of claim 23 wherein polyacrylic acid, polymethacrylic acid, or mixtures thereof are employed as the protective colloid of polymer(s) b).

29. (Currently Amended) The composition of claim 23 wherein the powder composition ~~comprising~~ employs copolymer(s) b), and contains ~~further comprises~~ at least one pulverulent, basic additive.